

THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS
TODAY AND TOMORROW

MOLDAVIA

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A Flourishing Orchard



Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic

by

A. F. Diorditsa

Chairman of the Moldavian SSR
Council of Ministers

Soviet
Booklet
No. 60/1

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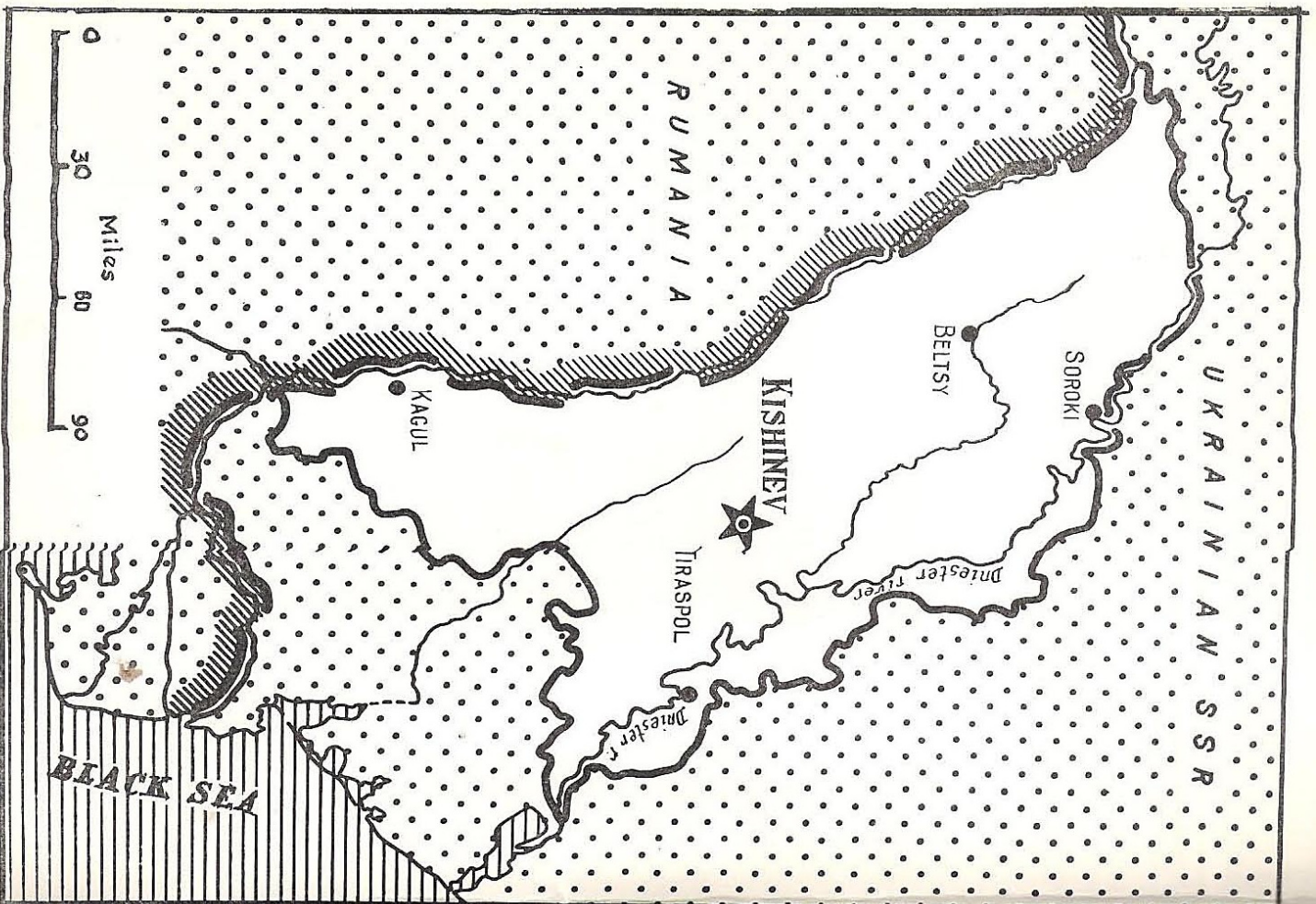
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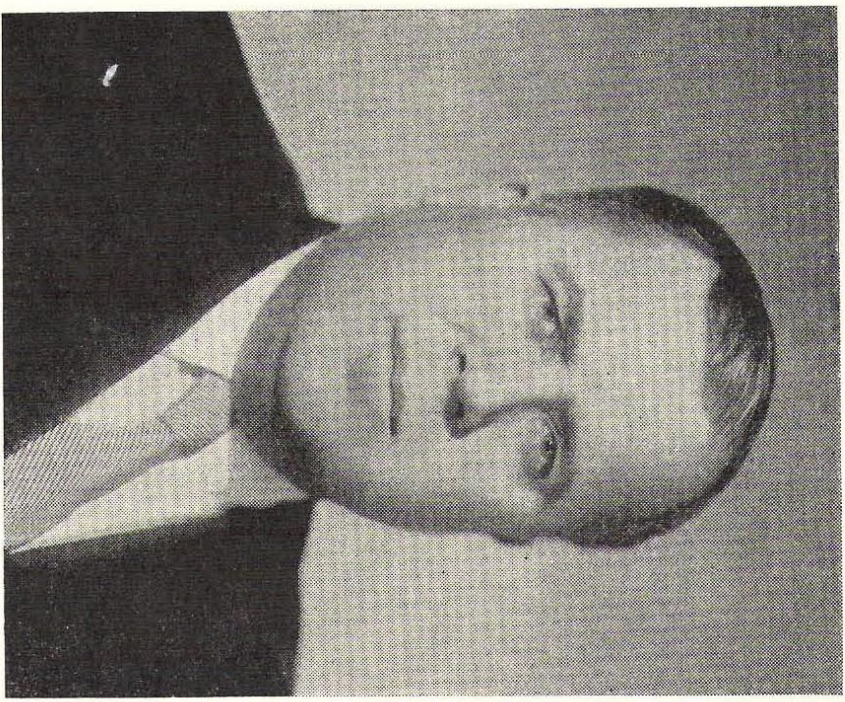


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A. F. DIORDITSA

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A Note on the Author

ALEXANDER FILIPPOVICH DIORDITSA was born in 1911 in the village of Gandraburi, Ananyev District of Odessa Region, in a Moldavian peasant's family.

Up to the age of eighteen he worked on a farm and studied. In 1930 he began to work as a teacher. Later he was elected to a leading post in the Young Communist League. In 1936 he entered the Academy of Finance in Leningrad and graduated from it.

When the Great Patriotic War broke out A. F. Diorditsa volunteered for the Soviet Army and was severely wounded during the defence of Odessa.

Up to 1955 he was Minister of Finances of the Moldavian S.S.R. Then he was promoted to the post of Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic. At the beginning of 1958 the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. appointed him Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic.

A. F. Diorditsa has been a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1938, member of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia, deputy to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet and the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R. He has been decorated with the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour and several medals.

Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic

On the Dniester and the Pruth

If you glance at the map of the Soviet Union you will see that Moldavia lies in the south-west of the U.S.S.R., between the Dniester and Pruth rivers, bordering on the Rumanian People's Republic in the west and on the Ukrainian S.S.R. in the north, east and south.

A small Republic, with a territory of 13,500 square miles, Moldavia is a land of sunshine. We have a splendid climate: long summers, warm autumns and mild winters.

"The sky is azure blue for many months,

Shortlived the furious reign of winter storms,"

wrote the Russian poet Pushkin, describing Moldavia.

Fertile black-soil steppe occupies the greater part of Moldavia. Linden, oak and hornbeam forests have been preserved in the more elevated regions of the northern and central parts of the Republic.

Moldavia's mineral wealth consists mainly of building materials, limestone, gypsum, sand, clay. There are also small deposits of lignite; fuel gas, oil and phosphorites have been discovered.

Geological prospecting conducted in the last few years has shown that Moldavia has mineral springs with curative properties. This, in combination with the gentle climate and picturesque landscape, creates favourable conditions for the development of health resorts, especially in the Kodry area, in central Moldavia.

The Dniester, or Nistru, as it is called by the people, cuts across the whole of Moldavia. To the Moldavian the Dniester means as much as the Volga to the Russian, or the Dnieper to the Ukrainian. He sings of this river in his *doinas* (ballads) and legends.

It is the most economically valuable river in the Republic. Its waters are used for irrigation and for power production. The Karagash system on the left bank supplies water for irrigating more than 12,000 acres of land.

Moldavia's first hydro-electric station was built on the Dniester, at Dubossary. Its construction has made it possible to regulate the flow of the Dniester waters and to control the floods which in the past caused much damage to the villages, orchards and fields along the bank.

According to the latest census (January 1959), the Moldavian S.S.R. has a population of 2,880,000. Besides the Moldavians, who make up the bulk of the population in the Republic, there are also Russians, Ukrainians, Jews and Bulgarians.

The rural population predominates. About 2,240,000 live in the countryside and about 640,000 in the cities.

Altogether the Republic has sixteen cities, the biggest being Kishinev, the capital (with a population of 214,400), Beltsy (66,500), Tiraspol (62,000) and Bendery (43,000). There are also many small towns.

Pages from History

The reader may be interested to know that the Moldavians are the only people in the Soviet Union who speak a language related to the Romance languages, such as French, Spanish and Portuguese.

This arises from the fact that the remote ancestors of the Moldavians belonged to the peoples of ancient Dacia, a region in the lower Danube area conquered at the beginning of the second century of our era by the Romans, who imposed their language and their rule over the Dacians.

However, the Moldavian language also contains many words of Slavonic origin because the Moldavians have long been the neighbours of Slav peoples—Ukrainians and Poles. Furthermore, Slav tribes, which played an important part in the formation of the Moldavian nationality, lived for several centuries in Moldavian territory.

Owing to her convenient geographical location between the Black Sea and the Carpathian Mountains, Moldavia has for ages served as a "highroad" to many peoples and tribes. Many different peoples moved through this country. In the space of 2,000 years Moldavia changed hands twelve times, annexed now by one state, now by another.

For three centuries she was weighed down by the yoke of the Turkish sultans, until she became, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, part of Russia under the name of Bessarabia.

In tsarist Russia, Moldavia had somewhat greater possibilities for development; nevertheless, she remained one of the backward border regions. There was practically no industry. The people lived in poverty. Ruined peasants moved to other regions of Russia, or emigrated to foreign countries.

The Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917, which made the working people of Russia masters of their own country and of all its wealth, was received with jubilation by the Moldavians. Soviet government was established in Moldavia in 1918.

Under the Heel of the Rumanian Monarchy

When the young Soviet Russia was attacked by numerous enemies, foreign invaders took advantage of that. By means of fire and sword, they wrested from a large section of the Moldavian people their revolutionary achievements and cut off the western and south-western parts of Moldavia.

For twenty-two years that part of Moldavia situated on the right bank of the Dniester—that is, the greater part of the country—was kept under the tyranny of the Rumanian monarchy.

Agriculture deteriorated, and the peasants, burdened by unendurable taxes, became impoverished. Even the Rumanian capitalist newspapers had to write about the poverty of the Moldavian peasantry.

"Pauperisation is advancing with long strides in the villages," wrote one of these papers, "and many villagers are wearing mere rags. . . ."

And this at a time when the free working people in Soviet Moldavia, on the left bank of the Dniester, were building their own national state.

In 1924, the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was constituted within the Ukrainian S.S.R. Industry, agriculture and culture made rapid progress.

Socialist Moldavia's Rapid Progress

No more than a few semi-handicraft establishments with 650 workers existed before the revolution in the territories on the left bank of the Dniester. And yet, in 1939, Soviet Moldavia already had in operation many big industrial enterprises.

Extensive assistance was rendered to Soviet Moldavia by the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union and, primarily, by the Russian and Ukrainian peoples, who provided industrial equipment, as well as technicians, engineers and other specialists.

A modern industry was built up in Soviet Moldavia between 1926 and 1939; and many enterprises were set up for processing agricultural raw materials, such as canneries, wineries, sugar refineries and flour mills. The number of workers grew to 13,000.

In Soviet Moldavia, just as throughout the Soviet Union, the peasants were gradually taking to collective labour, pooling their resources together and forming collective farms.

Collectivisation of farming changed the economy, culture and life of the Moldavian peasantry. Tractors and combine harvesters sent from the R.S.F.S.R., the Ukraine and other Republics of the Soviet Union appeared in the fields of Moldavia. The area under orchards and vineyards was increased several times over, and the life of the peasants was becoming constantly better, and more prosperous.

Universal elementary education became effective in Soviet Moldavia by 1939; the transition to universal seven-year schooling in the villages, and to ten-year schooling in the cities, was going ahead. This was very important in view of the fact that the mass of the population was illiterate in pre-revolutionary Moldavia. Higher schools and special secondary schools were opened and a number of cultural and educational institutions developed. In this way the Republic was soon able to rear its own intelligentsia.

The people of Soviet Moldavia indicated to their oppressed brothers on the right bank the road to freedom and happiness. The latter refused to resign themselves to their enslaved status and carried on an incessant struggle.

The right-bank territory of Moldavia was restored to the Soviet Union on June 28th, 1940, and the entire population of Moldavia was reunited with the friendly family of Soviet peoples.

That was the beginning of a new life in the liberated country. The peasants were given land by the Soviet State. Industry, the banks, transport and communications were nationalised and became state property, the property of the people.

By the will of the working people of Moldavia, the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, an independent state of the reunited Moldavian people, was formed on August 2nd, 1940.

Soon, however, on June 22nd, 1941, the peaceful life of Moldavia was disturbed when the Hitlerite aggressors attacked the Soviet Union.

Moldavia was occupied. The enemy robbed the people and committed atrocities. Clives were reduced to ruins. Tens of thousands of Moldavian citizens were sent by the invaders into fascist slavery.

Not one industrial enterprise escaped destruction in Kishinev, Tiraspol and Bender. Agriculture, too, suffered terribly. More than 75,000 acres of vineyards and orchards were destroyed; tractors, combine harvesters and horses were shipped out and about 50,000 houses burned down.

Schools, colleges and libraries were wrecked, railways, electric power plants and water mains damaged. According to incomplete estimates, the damage caused to Moldavia's economy by the fascist invaders surpassed 11,000 million roubles.

Such were the heavy odds confronting Moldavia when she began to restore her national economy after the victory over fascism.

But the people won back their most important gain: the Soviet system. They were therefore in a position to raise the Republic from its ashes, to put it back on the road to progress. Once again we had the assistance of the other peoples of the Soviet Union. The fraternal Republics supplied food, equipment and farm machines.

As a result, Moldavia was able not only to heal rapidly the wounds caused by the occupation, but to make still greater progress.

Made in Moldavia

A "blossoming orchard" is what Moldavia is often called in the Soviet Union; this is quite justified, for our Republic is really a land of orchards and vineyards.

One third of all the vineyards of the U.S.S.R. are concentrated in our Republic although it occupies only 0.15 per cent of the territory of the Soviet Union. Orchards stretch for scores of miles.

Moldavia occupies the first place in the Soviet Union in the production of grapes, and fifth place in the production of fruit.

However, I should like to begin the story about our present-day Republic by describing its industry, because it is precisely socialist industrialisation which has enabled the Republic to raise all the branches of its economy as well as the living and cultural standards of the people to such a high level.

History teaches us that no matter how well advanced agriculture may be, the rock bottom of a country's economy is provided by industry which supplies new equipment to all branches of the national economy, and stimulates their technical progress.

Industry implies the existence of people skilled in the operation of the most complex machines and in the use of advanced methods of organising production, people who know how to value the time factor, to use raw materials and fuel sparingly, to raise the productivity of labour.

Moldavia's industry is one of the greatest gains of her working people in Soviet times.

The share of industry in Moldavia's national economy is growing steadily. Two decades ago, the share of industrial production in Bessarabia's economy was no more than 2 to 3 per cent, whereas today industrial production predominates in Moldavia's national economy. Gross industrial output in 1958 was seven-and-a-half times that of 1940.

Progress is not limited to the light and food industries which are using mainly agricultural products of the Republic; heavy industry, too, has made great progress.

The Republic has built up from scratch her own engineering, electrical equipment, metal-working and chemicals industries, and her industry is also supplying leather and shoes, furs, garments and silks.

Moldavia is producing electrical equipment for various uses, machinery for casting under pressure, machine tools, wine presses and many other items of industrial equipment and consumer goods which were not made in Moldavia before. Products made of synthetic materials and plastics are becoming increasingly prominent among general consumer goods. Our factories supply synthetic leather, karakul, chamois, rayon knitted goods and other attractive and low-priced goods.

Electrification of the national economy, the basis of technical progress and higher technical equipment of labour, is being rapidly pushed ahead. Production of electric power in Moldavia (within her present borders) was 17,200,000 k.w.h. in 1940; today it is nearly 500 million k.w.h.

Moldavia's industry is also producing internal combustion engines, agricultural, forest planting and stone-cutting machines, centrifugal pumps, spare parts and various farm implements. Building materials are produced on a large scale.

However, the production of food is still the leading industry. That is understandable. Thanks to her natural and climatic conditions, Moldavia has developed the production of fruit and grapes on a large scale, and her agriculture supplies great amounts of produce for processing.

Moldavia is one of the leading producers of tinned food, sugar, fruit juice, tobacco, vegetable and essential oils in the U.S.S.R. She occupies first place in the U.S.S.R. in the production of wines, and third in the production of tinned food.

The output of grape wine has grown twelve times over and of sugar—eleven times over between 1940 and 1958.

Moldavia is now supplying an equivalent of 400 million standard tins of preserved foodstuffs (mainly fruit and vegetables) a year. In order to give a better idea of the scale of this production, let me recall that the whole of tsarist Russia's canning industry produced in 1913 only an equivalent of 95 million standard tins.

It is gratifying to see the growing popularity of the products made in Moldavia.

Goods marked "Made in Moldavia" are becoming known outside the U.S.S.R. as well. Moldavian grinding and polishing lathes are exported to China, Mongolia, the U.A.R. and Yemen; her bearings mills are sent to Burma; wine, vegetable oil, butter and essential oils are delivered to Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. Moldavia's wines and other food products have been awarded certificates of merit at international exhibitions.

Kishinev, the capital, is one of the most important industrial centres of the Republic. The city has an electrical engineering plant, an automobile repair plant, a plant for the production of architectural ceramics, a shoe factory and textile mill, a meat packing plant, tobacco factory, a factory for the production of essential oils, and other enterprises.

Tiraspol is well-known for its food industry. The "May First" and

Tkachenko factories supply tinned fruit, jams, marmalade, juices and frozen fruit. They come off the conveyors in millions of tins annually; and the production processes in the canneries are completely mechanised. Local cognacs have gained wide renown.

The Tiraspol garment factory is known for its original and economical methods of cutting which eliminate all waste. This method has been used with great economic effect in other Soviet enterprises. The Tiraspol factory has brought up the productivity of labour to the highest level in the Soviet garment industry.

New textile mills in Bendery turn out a great variety of fabrics, including kapron.¹

Industrial progress in the Republic would have been unthinkable without the training of its own skilled workers, technicians and specialists. The number of industrial and office workers, engineers and technicians employed in industry and construction has grown to more than four times the pre-war² figure.

Moldavian workers and engineers have acquired command of modern technique; they are fulfilling and surpassing production plans, and their numerous suggestions have helped to improve production, to raise the productivity of labour, improve the quality of the products and cut production costs.

Moldavia's factories are receiving new equipment, and are successfully employing advanced technological methods; automation and mechanisation of laborious processes is going ahead. Labour is becoming constantly lighter.

A powerful impetus to national economic progress in the Republic, and in the Soviet Union as a whole for that matter, was supplied by the re-organisation of the management of industry and construction.

With the establishment of the National Economic Council of the Moldavian Republic (the Moldavian Economic Area), enterprises which were formerly managed by the Ministries located in Moscow were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Republic.

The enterprises within the jurisdiction of the National Economic Council are now supplying 90 per cent of all the industrial output of our Republic. Important steps have been taken by the National Economic Council for the purpose of improving work in industry, and, in particular, measures connected with the specialisation of the metal-working plants, shoe factories and other enterprises, and for the co-ordination of enterprises.

The result has been a cut in the expenditure of labour on the production of certain items and an increase in output.

Vineyards, Orchards and Fields

It will be no exaggeration to say that the life of the Moldavian people has been connected with orchards and vineyards from the most ancient times down to the present. Not without reason has our Republic clusters of grapes and fruit, alongside ears of wheat and corn-cobs on its emblem. Favourable soil and climatic conditions, the experience accumulated by the people over many centuries, combined with collective labour and the extensive use of

modern equipment and scientific achievements, have really converted Soviet Moldavia into a flourishing orchard.

Viticulture and horticulture are the main branches of farming in Moldavia, which has the biggest vineyards in the U.S.S.R. Moldavian grapes and Moldavian fruits are famous throughout the country.

Viticulture and horticulture are concentrated in the central part of the Republic, in the neighbourhood of Kishinev, Tiraspol, Bendery, Kalash and other cities.

Other branches of agriculture have also made progress in our Republic. Wheat and maize are grown in the southern and northern districts. Large areas grow valuable industrial crops: sugar beet, tobacco and sunflower seed. Moldavia is growing also essential oil crops (sage, lavender, rose, iris and geranium) which yield valuable oils. Vegetables and melons are cultivated on a large scale.

Moldavia is well-known, too, for her livestock. We raise dairy cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry.

Yes, the rich soil of Moldavia rewards generously the free labour of the free Soviet man!

And yet, we of the older generation still remember the time when the Moldavian peasant led a miserable existence in this country which has been so richly endowed by nature, and when his native land was a cruel step-mother rather than a mother to him.

In those days the land did not belong to those who tilled it. There were about 500 big landlords in little Bessarabia. They owned 2,650,000 acres of land. About 540,000 acres belonged to the monasteries.

On the other hand, 200,000 peasant households were completely landless, and most of the peasants who did own small strips of land had to work for the landlords or *kulaks*³ for a mere pittance.

Collective Farms

The Soviet government nationalised the land, converted it into state property, into the property of all the people, and turned it over to the peasants for perpetual use free of charge. This is one of the greatest achievements of the socialist revolution in Russia which gratified the age-old strivings of tens of millions of people.

In Soviet Moldavia, just as throughout the U.S.S.R., the peasants have passed over to collective (co-operative) farming.

Collectivisation of agriculture in the territory on the left bank of the river was completed already in the 'thirties. After the reunion of the Moldavian people in one Soviet state, in 1940, the peasants in the right-bank territory soon became aware of the advantages of collective labour. Before long the first collective farms were formed in that part of the country.

This process was interrupted by the war. Beginning with 1946, the old collective farms were restored in the right-bank regions, and new collective farms formed; by 1950, the majority of peasants had become members of the collective farms.

Thus have the Moldavian peasants taken firmly to the path of co-operation indicated by Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state.

³ *Kulaks* were capitalist farmers who derived their income from exploiting wage labour, combined with trading, money-lending, rent from land and the hiring out of livestock and tools.—Ed.

¹ Soviet artificial fibre similar to nylon.—Ed.

² i.e. 1940, the year before Nazi Germany's attack against the U.S.S.R.—Ed.

Collective farming opened unlimited possibilities to develop all branches of agriculture, improve efficiency and raise the peasants' living standards. Poverty, ruin and exploitation of the peasantry has been banished for ever.

The organisation of collective farms was facilitated by the substantial material and technical assistance received by Moldavia from the Soviet state. In the first four post-war years alone, agriculture in our Republic received 2,000 tractors, many combine harvesters, trucks, modern threshers and other farm machines.

There are 750 collective farms in Moldavia today. These big, mechanised, multiple-husbandry farms are highly profitable. All the collective farms of our Republic are millionaires, which means that there is not a farm among them with an income below 1 million roubles.

To be more concrete, I could mention that the Lenin collective farm (Tiraspol district) for example, netted in 1958 an income of 34 million roubles, and 235 other collective farms had incomes ranging from 5 million roubles upwards.

The strength of the collective farms lies in collective labour and in ample equipment. Grain ploughing and sowing have been completely mechanised on our collective farms; 55 to 80 per cent of the cereals, sugar beet and sunflower is also harvested by machinery.

Mechanisation is being constantly pushed ahead in the cultivation of industrial crops, in the orchards, vineyards and in livestock farming.

It has raised radically the productivity of all branches of agriculture, and lightened the work of the peasants: 19,200 tractors, 3,600 combine harvesters and tens of thousands of other modern farm machines are used in Moldavia's agriculture today.

After the reorganisation of the state machine and tractor stations (M.T.S.), which formerly provided machines for work on the collective farms, almost all these machines were bought up by the collective farms.

Agricultural Progress

Especially outstanding are the achievements made in Moldavia's agriculture in the latest period, when the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has carried into effect a number of important undertakings designed to improve agricultural production.

Gross production of agriculture in 1958 was 80 per cent above the 1953 volume.

In ten years (1949-1958), our collective farms laid out more than 450,000 acres of new vineyards and orchards. In the same period the gross grape crop has grown by 750 per cent and the fruit crop by almost 100 per cent. Yields of 6 tons of grapes and 14 tons of fruit to the acre are quite common.

Moldavia supplies more than one-third of the total grape crop in the Soviet Union. We grow many varieties of grapes. Among the most widespread European varieties cultivated here are the Allgote, Cabernet and Riesling. We cultivate about forty varieties of apples, about twenty varieties of pears and a great many varieties of the plum and cherry.

The share of maize has been growing steadily in the production of grain in the last few years. We have favourable conditions for the cultivation of maize which yields high crops in our Republic. Maize seeds are supplied

by the Republic to Estonia, Lithuania, Byelorussia and many regions of the Russian Federation, as well as being exported to some of the People's Democracies.

Our livestock farming is also going ahead. It was reduced to utter destruction under fascist occupation, and much effort was required to bring about its recovery. But today the number of livestock is much greater even than before the war.

The average milk yield per cow has grown from 2,416 lb. in 1950 to about 5,500 lb. in 1958.

There are sixty-five state farms and they play a very important part in Moldavia's national economy. The state farms specialise mainly in the cultivation of grapes and industrial crops, and in livestock breeding.

We have state-farm factories—that is to say, state farms which process their own products. For example, our state-farm factories supply essential oils (extracted from rose petals, lavender and other flowers) to the perfumery industry, soap factories, confectionery, chemico-pharmaceutical and other industries.

The movement for overtaking and surpassing the United States of America in *per capita* output of agricultural products is under way throughout Moldavia. It was initiated in our Republic by the working people of Chadyrlung District. This initiative has found an enthusiastic response in other districts. Effective steps have been taken to quicken the progress of livestock farming.

***Per capita* production of grain, butter and vegetable oils, sugar and wool is already greater in the Moldavian Republic than in the United States.**

We have no doubt that the *per capita* output of other Republics will also surpass the United States. This is a natural result of socialist development, because socialism affords unlimited possibilities for the development of all the productive forces.

We know, of course, that some people abroad are inclined to interpret our desire to win the economic race with the United States, the most advanced country of the capitalist world, as "defiance", as some sort of a threat to the United States and to the entire capitalist world. Most astonishing! Who can be threatened by the fact that life will constantly grow better for the Moldavian peasant and worker, and for every Soviet citizen for that matter, if their standard of living becomes higher than in the United States? Who will suffer as the result of that, either in the United States or in any other capitalist country?

Like all the Soviet people, the Moldavians are firmly convinced that peaceful co-existence and peaceful competition of states with different social and economic systems is the only way left for the development of mankind in our time.

For the Good of the People

So much for the economic development of Soviet Moldavia. What has been the effect of industrial and agricultural progress on the standard of living and intellectual life of our people? Most favourable.

As I have already mentioned, the dominating form of property of the means of production is socialist property, the property of all the people. Political power in the U.S.S.R. is in the hands of the working people; it is

to them that all the country's wealth, all the products of industry and agriculture belong.

Naturally, the working people use all the results of the development of the productive forces for their own benefit. And the growth of industrial and agricultural production, the growth of the national wealth, is therefore attended naturally and inevitably by improvements in the general living standard of the Soviet people.

All that I have said here applies in full also to Moldavia, which is an equal member of the Soviet family of nations.

The Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian S.S.R., which is composed of 281 deputies, is the highest organ of state authority in the Republic.

Who are these deputies elected by the people? They number in their midst 171 industrial workers and collective farmers (more than 60 per cent of all the deputies); the remaining deputies are engineers, agronomists, teachers, doctors, scientists, art workers, workers employed in Government offices; the majority of these members also come from working class and peasant families.

Workers and collective farmers also comprise about 70 per cent of the deputies of the local Soviets: 18,345 out of a total of 26,518 deputies. There are 2,300 teachers, 930 doctors, 820 agronomists and animal breeders and 43 engineers among the members of the local Soviets (let me note, in passing, that there are many women among the deputies: 104 deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic and 11,859 to the local Soviets—almost 45 per cent of all the deputies).

So much for the composition of our organs of power. In whose interests do they use their power? There can only be one answer to this question: in their own interests, in the interests of the working people.

The New Moldavian Village

A new life, a cultured and prosperous life, has come to the home of every citizen of socialist Moldavia.

In old Russia, or in former Rumania, the Bessarabian peasant could not even dream of the benefits enjoyed by the working people of our Republic today.

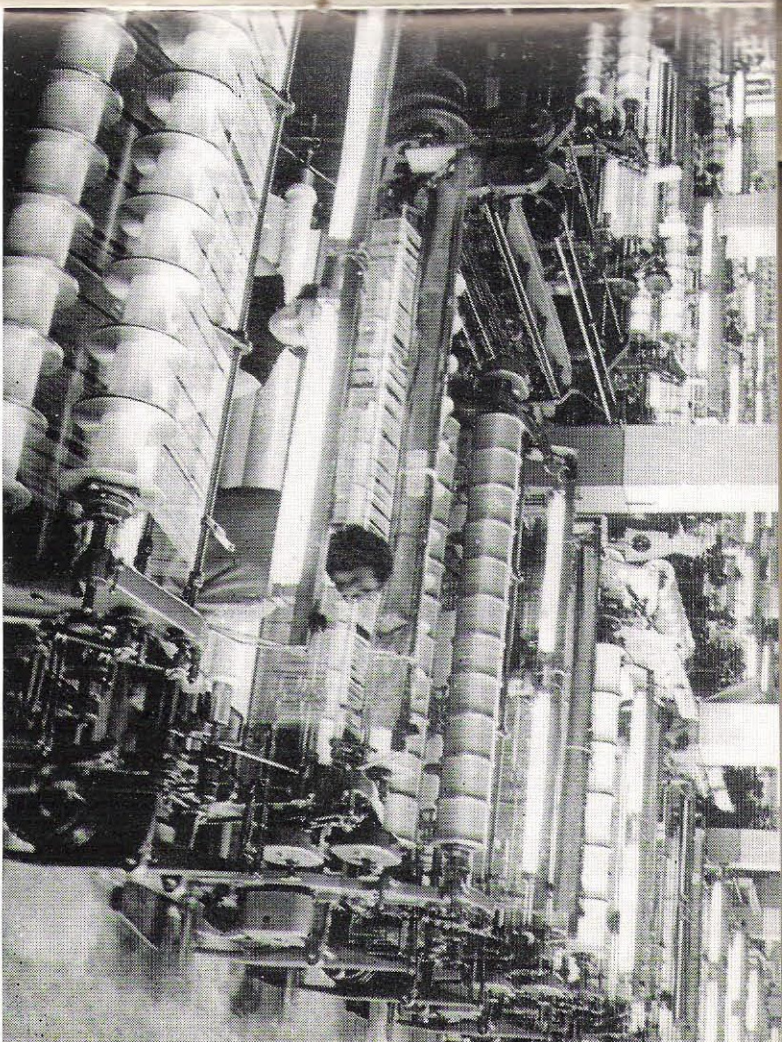
Let us take, for example, Kopanka Village in Bender District. Its past background differs very little from the history of hundreds of other Bessarabian villages. Most of the land belonged to the local rich, while the poor peasants of Kopanka tilled their miserable strips of land, unable to provide food for the family.

Many poor peasants left the village to seek happiness in America, emigrating to Brazil and other countries. But . . . they came back just as poor, and others found their death in a foreign land.

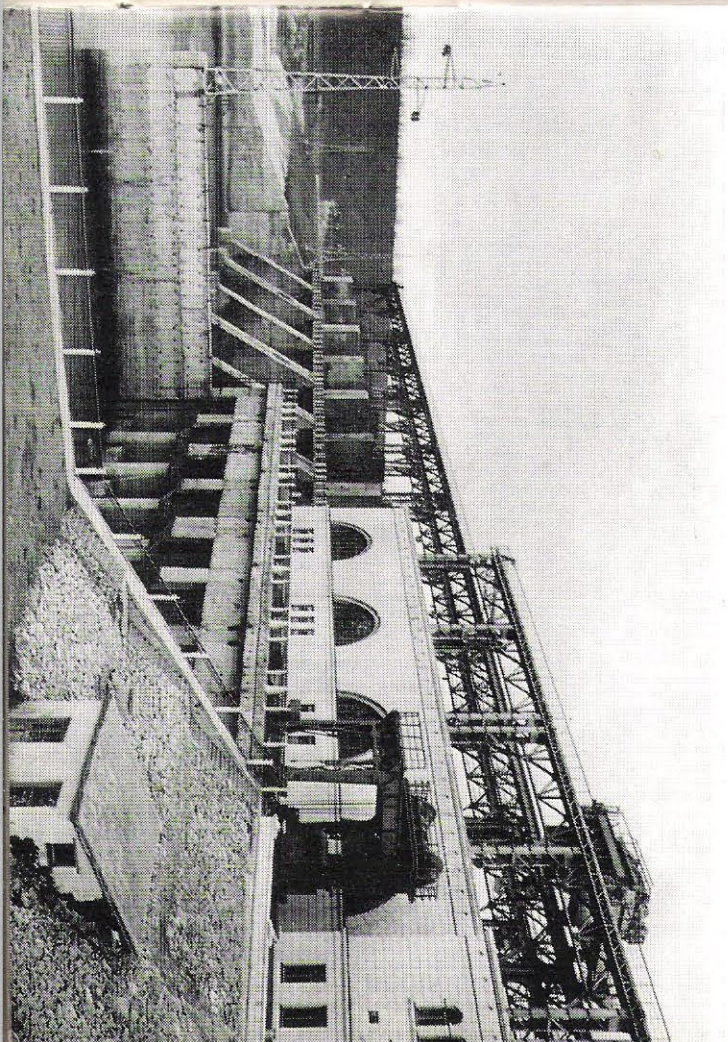
Sergei Donoi, a native of Kopanka, went to work as a shepherd when he was a mere boy of nine. His father could barely make ends meet. The family did not even have a hut of its own.

Sergei Donoi today heads a collective-farm brigade which is responsible for 260 acres of orchards. The results achieved by this brigade brought a profit of 2,500,000 roubles to the collective farm.

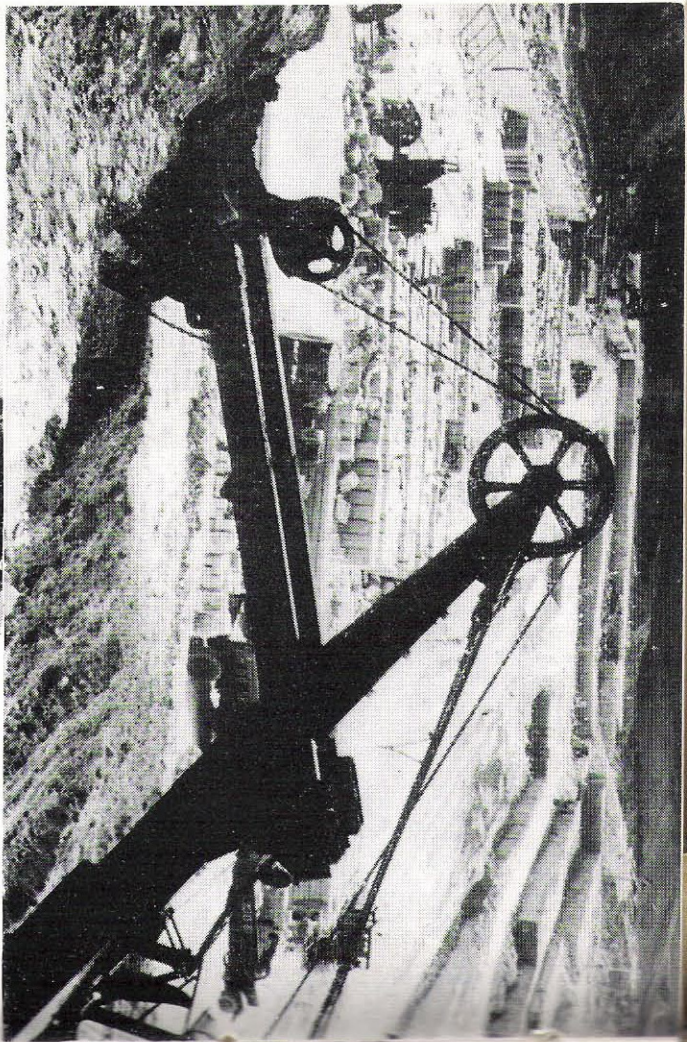
Donoi himself earns as much as 20,000-25,000 roubles a year, apart from payments in kind. He has built and furnished a fine home for his family.



Moldavia has a thriving textile industry. Above is a corner of the "Stena Rosie" knitwear factory in Kishinev.

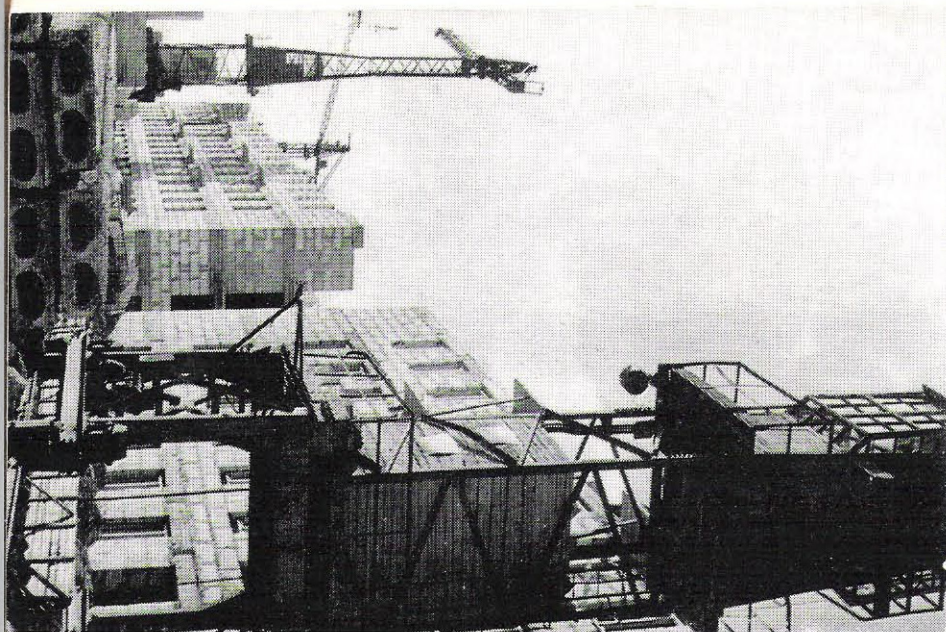


Harnessing the River Dniester—the Dubossary hydro-electric station.

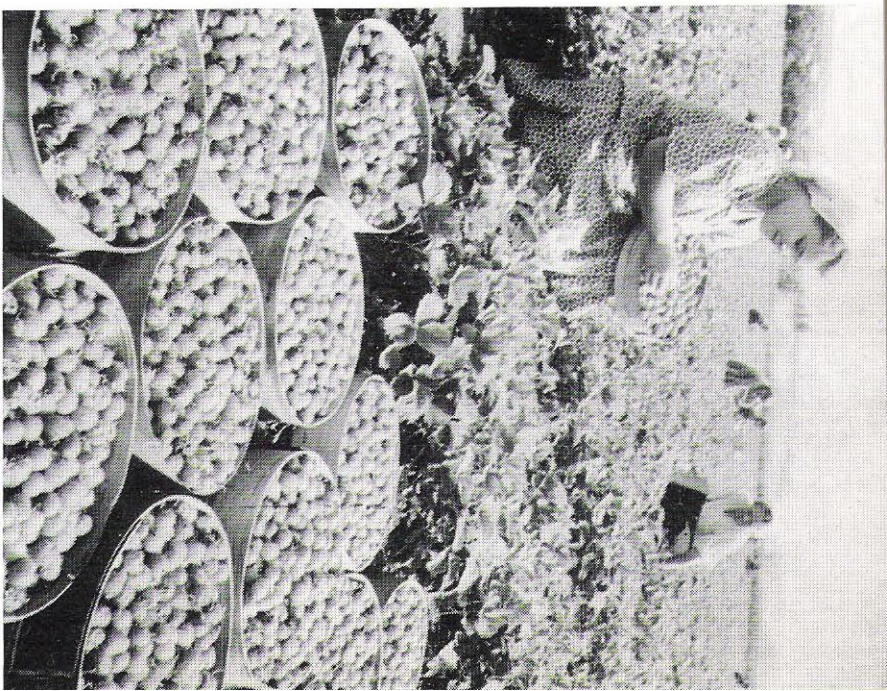


The excavator in the foreground is stripping the earth from the layer of building stone—a type of limestone—beneath. Machines are slicing the stone into blocks, and lorries take these direct to the building site.

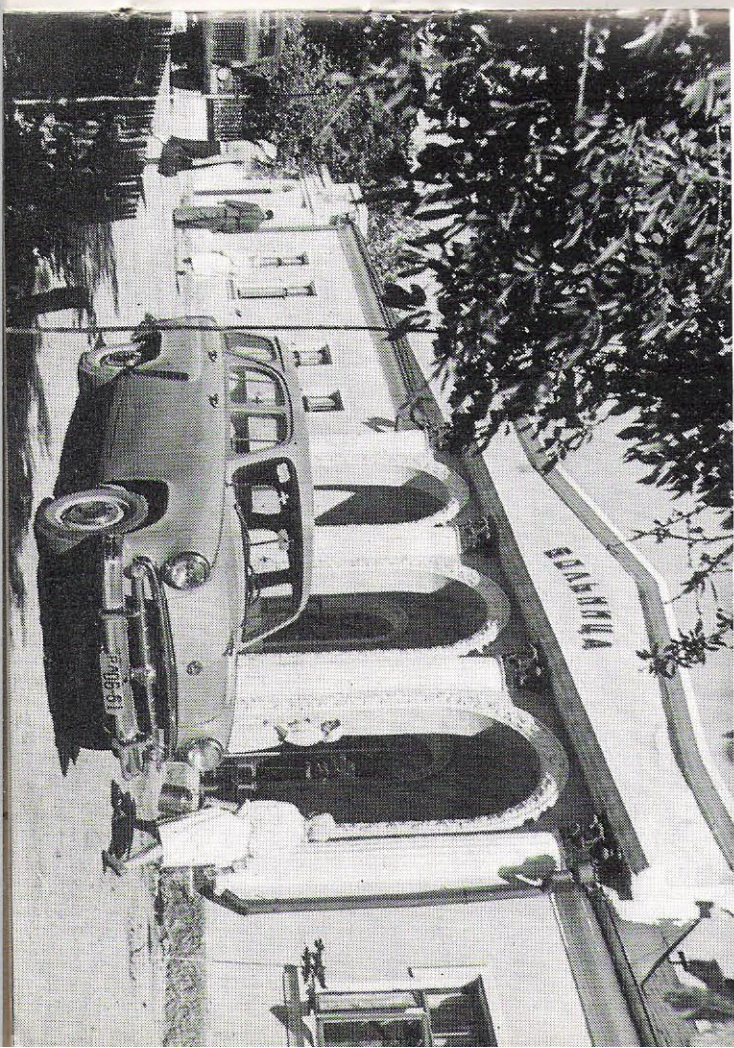
At the Kishinev building site on the left, such blocks are being used along with pre-cast concrete parts.



Girls at work in a Moldavian strawberry field—at the Fruzze state fruit and vegetable farm.



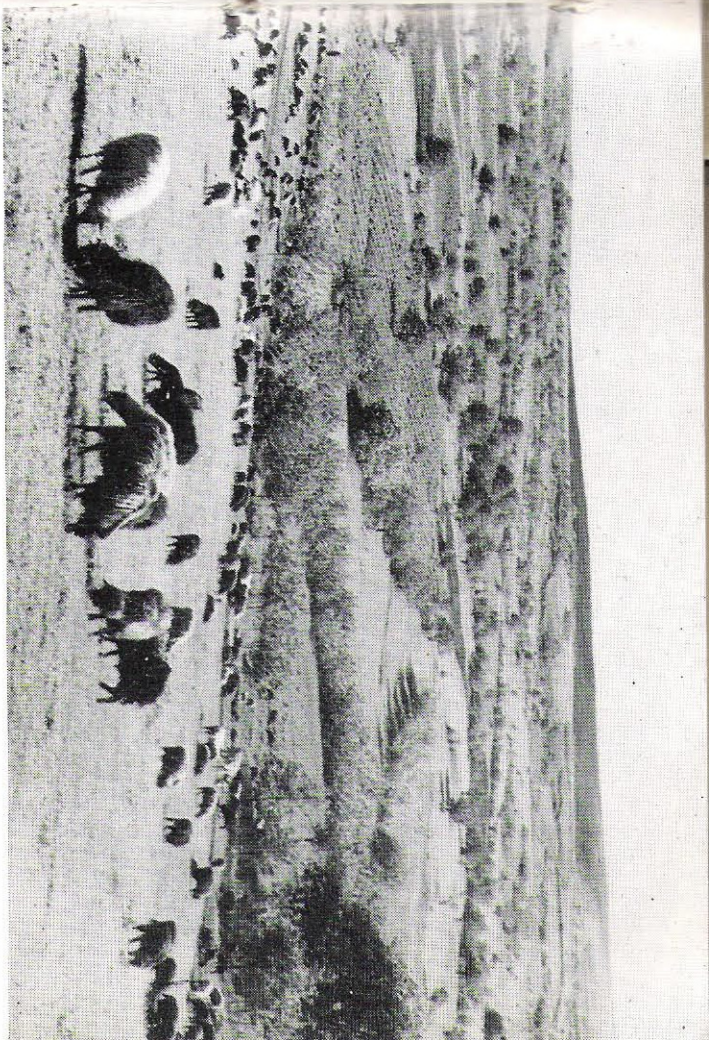
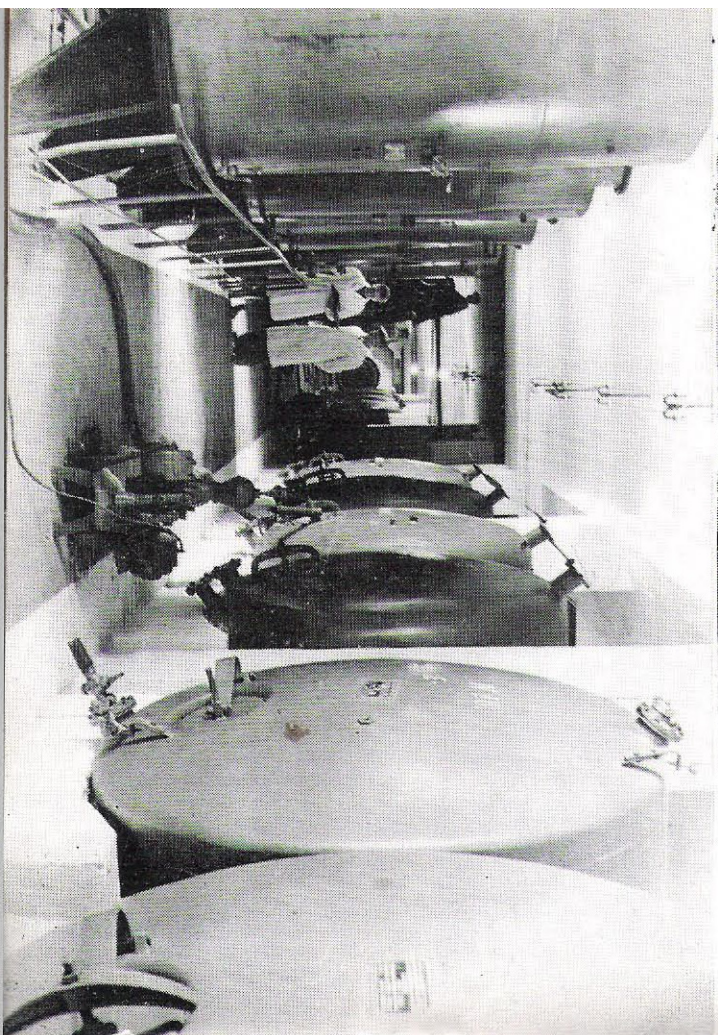
Below: the hospital and ambulance car of the Lenin collective farm in the Tiraspol district.





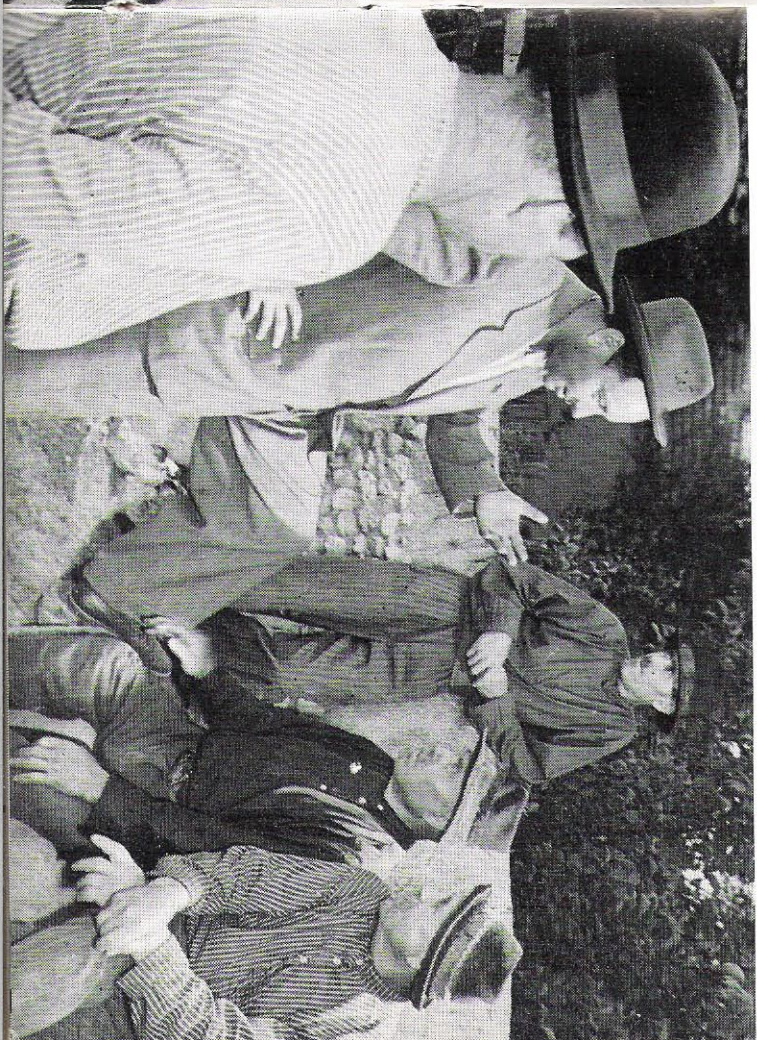
Moldavia is the main wine-producing Republic in the Soviet Union, a third of Soviet vineyards being within its borders. Left: Mariara Balan is a grape-picker on the Birutisa collective farm.

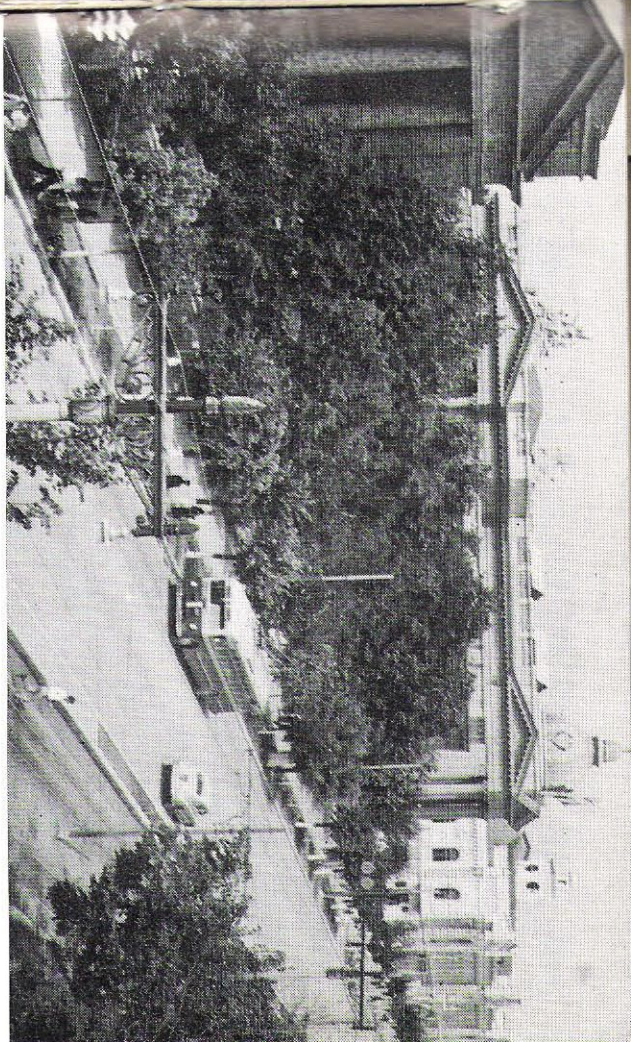
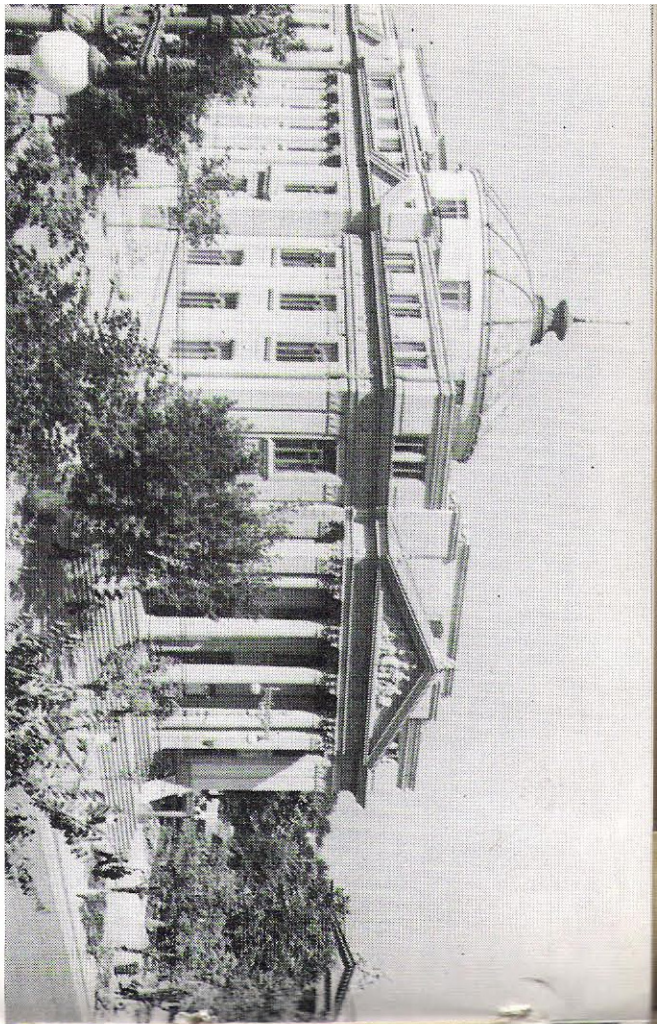
Below: a battery of continuous-fermentation vats at the Kishinev research institute devoted to viticulture.



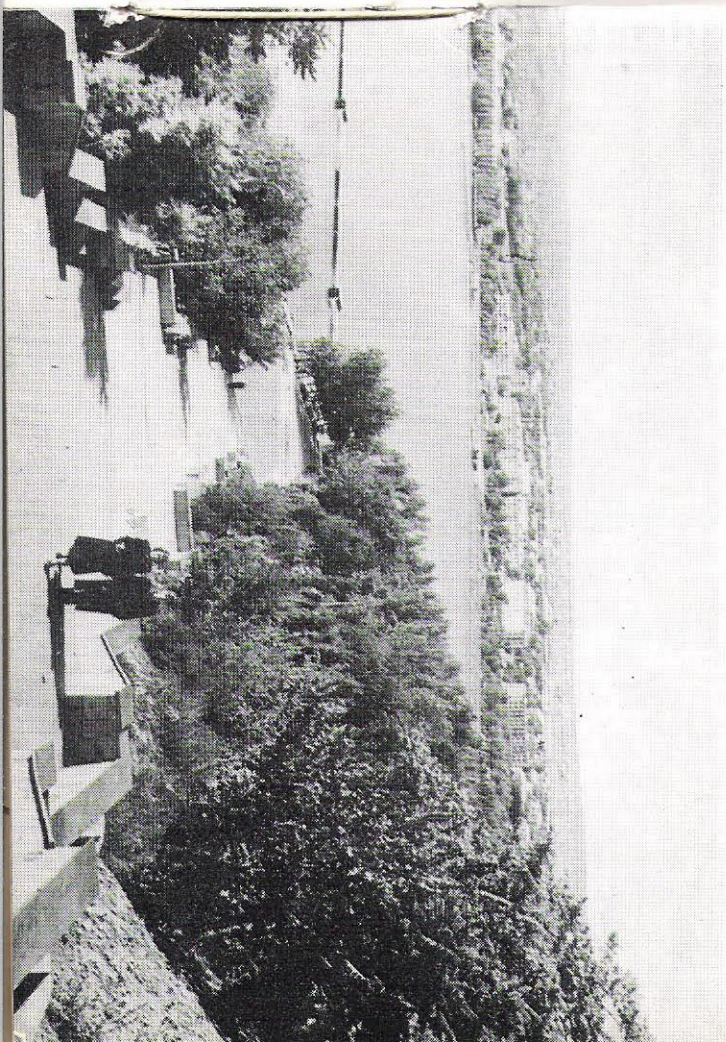
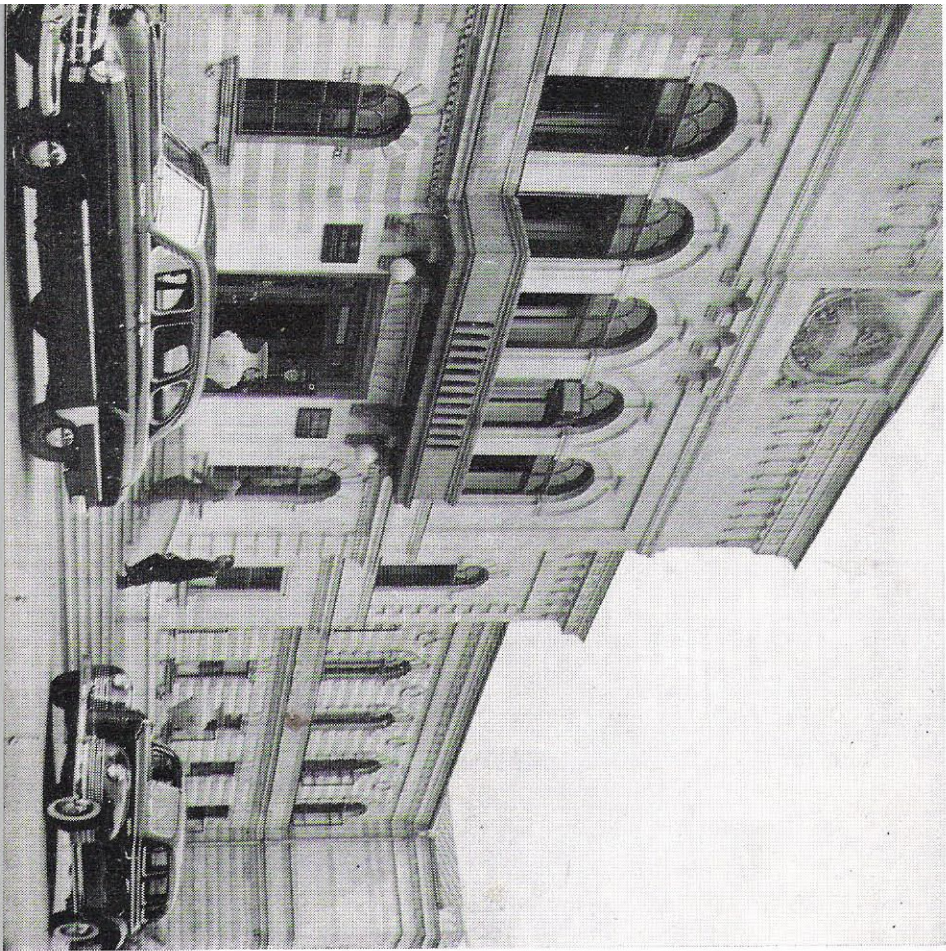
Sheep, orchards and vineyards in the Kausany district—typical Moldavian countryside.

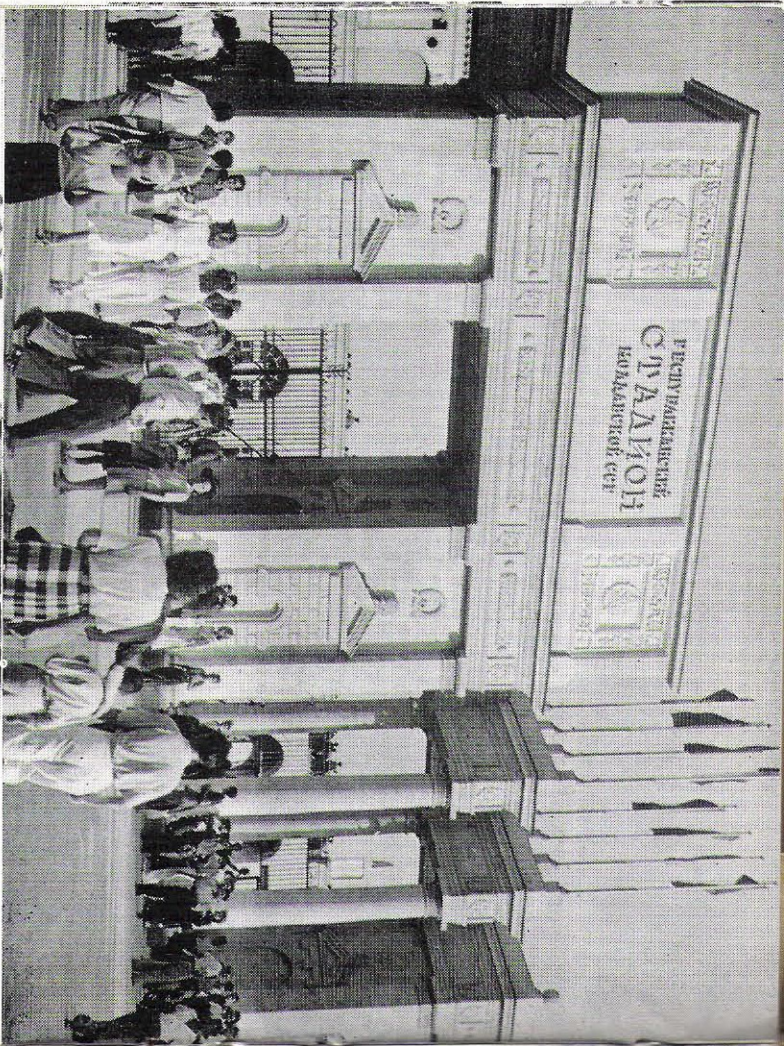
Georgi Topchu, a Moldavian Deputy to the Supreme Soviet, chats with some of his constituents—a group of the leading wine-makers on the Kiron collective farm.





KISHINEV, capital of Moldavia, is an important industrial centre catering for several industries. Top left: the Pushkin Theatre of Russian Drama; right: a view of the city's main thoroughfare, Lenin Street; bottom left: the building of the Moldavian S.S.R. Council of Ministers; right: one of the city's attractions—Komsomolskoye Lake.

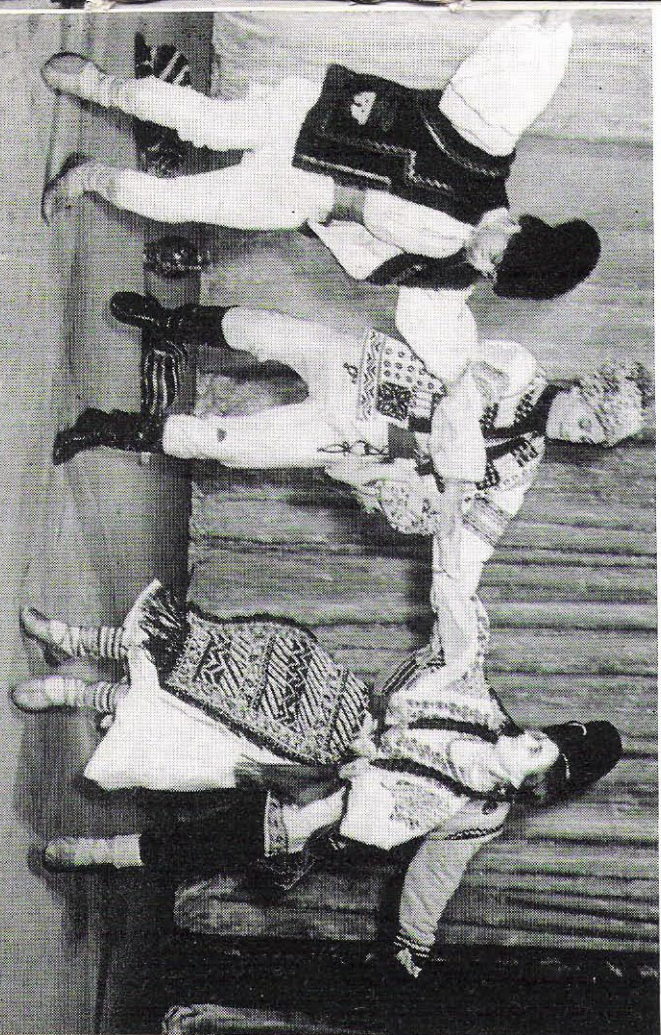




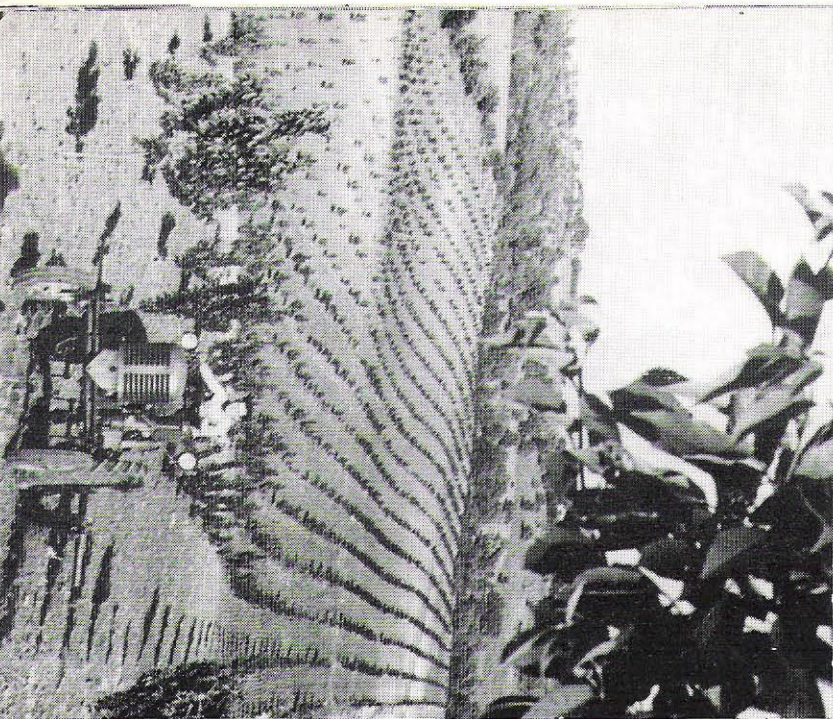
WORK AND PLAY: Above, we see the main entrance to the Sports Stadium in Kishinev, used for football, displays, and many sports activities.

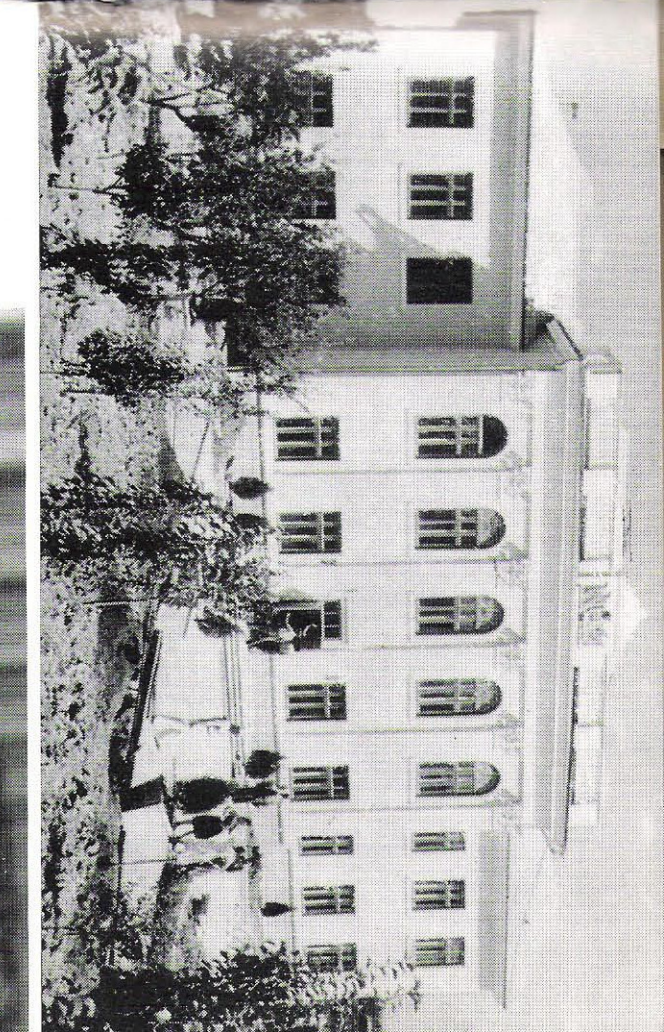
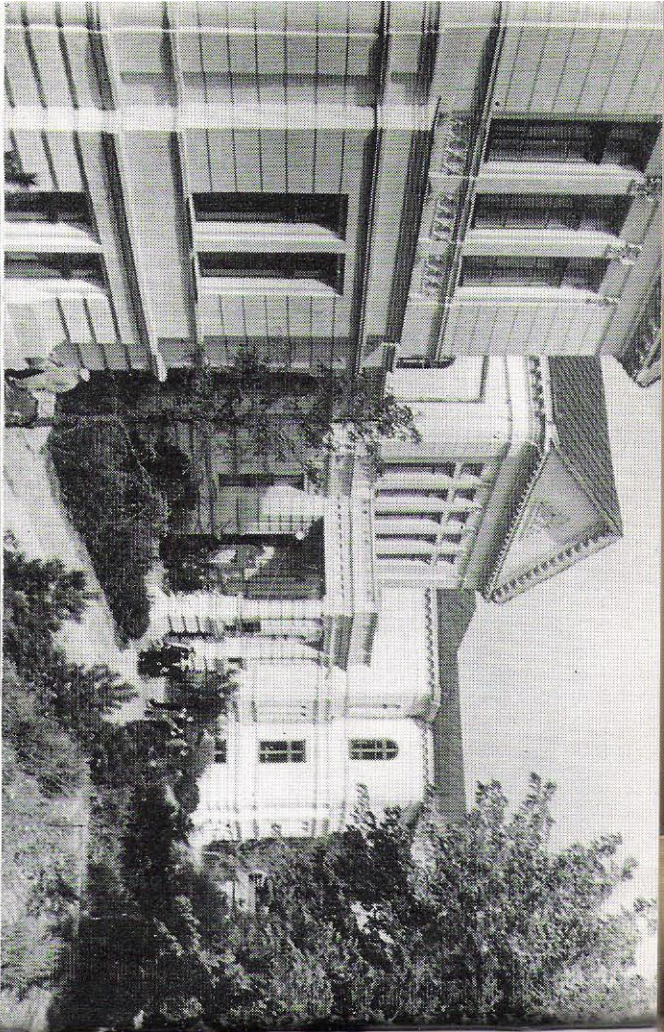


The young women above in national dress, are taking part in a Youth Festival in Pobeda Square, Kishinev.
Below: a ballet scene from "On The Road to Kishinev", performed by the Moldavian Song and Dance Ensemble.



Below: a tractor at work on an undulating orchard of the 'Paulesy' state farm, Kalarasy district.





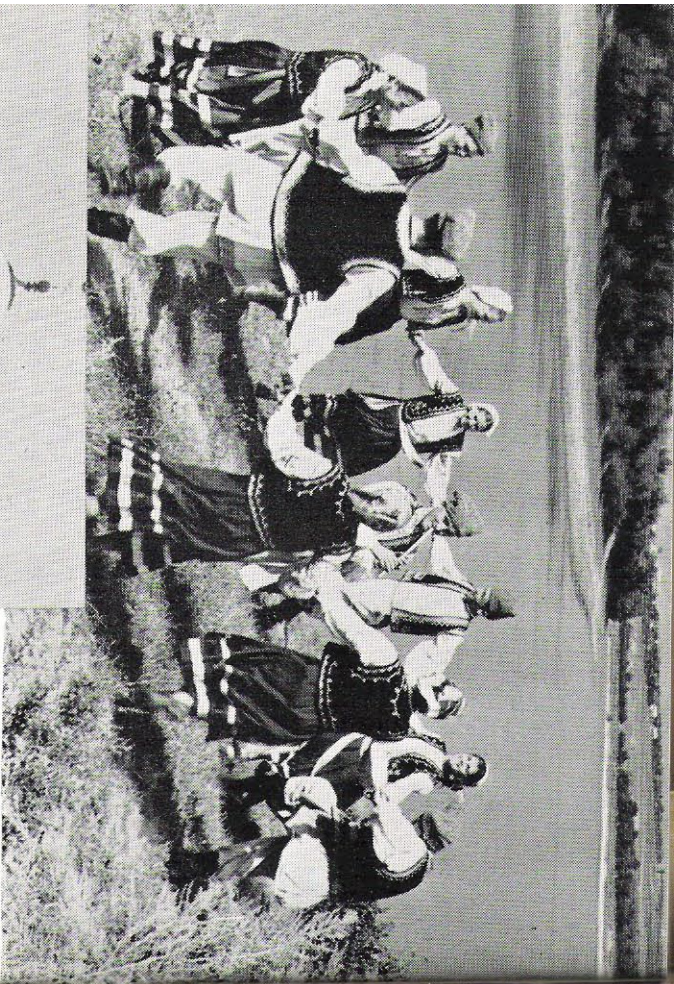
Above: a secondary school in Kopanka village, Bendery district.

EDUCATION: Moldavia has about half a million young people in its schools, with 17,000 enrolled at its university. Above: the main wing of the Frunze institute of Agriculture.

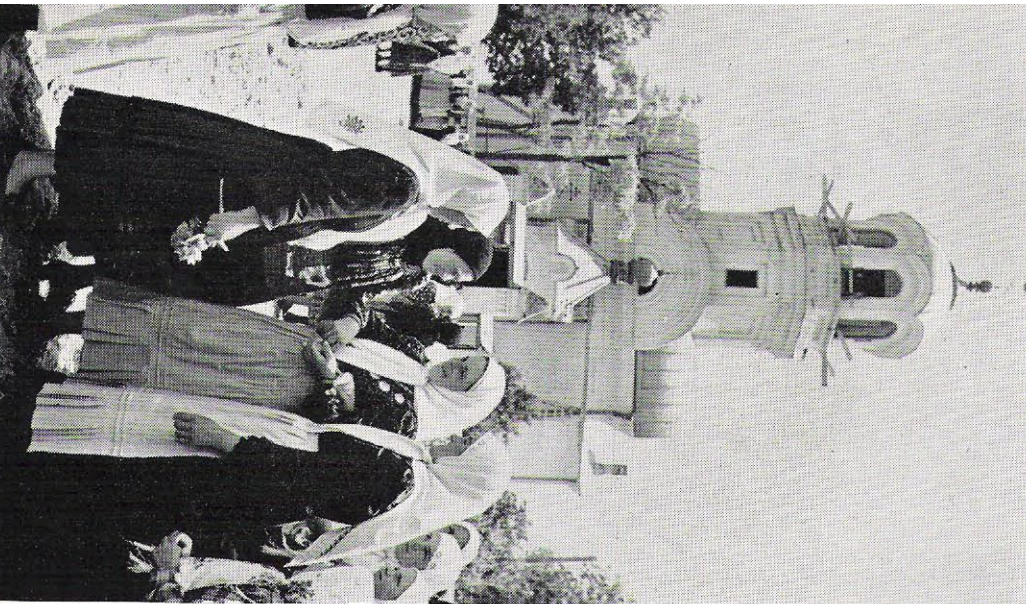
Left: students in the English language department in the Pedagogical institute preparing a wall-newspaper in English—"For Knowledge."

E. D. Vangel, on the right, is head of the Ungeny District Secondary School. She is also a Deputy from Moldavia to the Supreme Soviet and is here seen in the Kremlin at one of its meetings.





Above: young people of Karagash village, Tiraspol district, enjoy a national dance—the 'Moldoveniaski'—on the riverbank, during a week-end outing.



Left: peasant women of the village of Gagauz in week-end attire.

Trofim Bolta is another peasant whose family lived in constant want and destitution in the past. His son Georgi, who for nine years now has been Chairman of the Kopanka collective farm, has received the Order of Lenin and was elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

There were only four people who could read and write in pre-Soviet Kopanka, whereas today the village has sixty-two college-trained specialists, engineers, agronomists, animal husbandry specialists, teachers and doctors.

The collective farm has built with its own means a House of Culture where performances are given by local talent and by visiting artists from the capital.

There is radio in every home, and many people have TV sets.⁴ The streets have asphalted pavements, and there are water mains in the village, which also has a ten-year school, a kindergarden and hospital.

Elena Lazareva is in charge of the livestock section at the Kirov collective farm in Chatyr-Lung district, in the south of Moldavia. A very young girl, recently from seven-year school, she has nevertheless gained general respect thanks to her abilities, energy and initiative, and the collective farmers have entrusted to her this important job.

Should you drop in to see her you will find in the guest room a fine suite of furniture, an expensive rug on the wall and well-stocked bookcases. Her private library contains books by Moldavian authors, by writers of the fraternal Republics and by many foreign authors; there are books on agriculture and textbooks. Elena Lazareva is due to graduate from the evening ten-year school.

The dining room is also well furnished. The rough-hewn table and benches have long been burnt in the hearth. In their place is a stylish dining room suite, a radio set in the corner of the room and pictures on the walls.

All this has become a commonplace in the Moldavian village.

The Bessarabian peasant had nothing but rags to cover his body. The collective farmers of Soviet Moldavia purchased in 1958 alone more than 100 million roubles' worth of silks and 72 million roubles' worth of knitted goods.

In the same year, collective farmers bought 22,000 sewing machines, thousands of TV and radio sets, many motorcycles, a great deal of furniture and other durable goods.

About 60,000 new homes have been built in the villages in the last few years.

The collective farms are allocating from their increasing incomes constantly greater amounts for the purchase of automobiles, for financing the construction of farm buildings, schools, clubs, kindergartens and for improvements in the villages.

Progress in the Towns

One of the results of industrial progress has been the growth of the urban population and expansion of the cities. True, our cities were badly damaged by the Hitlerite occupation; in Kishinev, for instance, 75 per cent of the houses were destroyed.

But already today one can hardly notice any traces of destruction. New

⁴ There is a TV centre in Kishinev.

houses and entire blocks are being put up everywhere. The new buildings have fine flats with all modern conveniences.

The municipal services and city transport are being improved, and new parks and gardens are laid out everywhere. Many industrial workers and other employees are building private homes for themselves; the state encourages this construction, by providing loans on easy terms.

Like all other Soviet workers, the Moldavian worker is free from the fear of unemployment, and he need not worry about his future. Real wages and salaries are growing steadily as the result of wage and salary increases and cuts in retail prices.

Right in the factories the Soviet worker has all the necessary facilities for improving his skill, and, consequently, for getting a higher wage. Furthermore, he has every opportunity for studying to become a technician or engineer without giving up his regular occupation.

Let me give just one example. Mikhail Pechkurrov began to work at the Avtodot plant in Kishinev after his demobilisation in 1951. He had no trade and started as a fitter's apprentice. At the same time he began to study. This helped him to become expert in his trade and he qualified for a foreman's job.

But Mikhail did not stop short there; he signed up for a correspondence course in a technical school, and is now employed as chief of the automobile repair shop in the same plant.

These opportunities are available to every worker. Most of our industrial executives and engineers come from the ranks of the working class or peasantry.

Naturally, the working people of Moldavia enjoy all the privileges and benefits to which the citizens of the U.S.S.R. are entitled, such as free tuition and medical assistance, state social insurance benefits, old-age pensions, scholarships, and so on.

The state is constantly raising its allocations for these purposes. It has been calculated that all these payments and benefits raise the income of each Soviet family by about 34 per cent.

Increased purchasing power is perhaps the most striking index of better living standards. As for Moldavia, retail sales in her state and co-operative stores have grown by 120 per cent (in comparable prices) in the last five years, and sales are now twelve-and-a-half times as high as in 1940.

Education and Culture for All

While in the left-bank regions, which were constituted as the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, illiteracy was eradicated already at the beginning of 1937, the work to eliminate illiteracy was started in the right-bank regions only after 1940; it was interrupted by the war, and in 1944 *general illiteracy was as high as 65 per cent. Among women it was still higher—85 per cent.*

Therefore, the question of eliminating illiteracy and inadequate literacy was placed on the order of the day as a most important task after Moldavia's liberation from the occupation régime.

We have succeeded in solving this problem thanks again to the assistance of all the Republics of the Soviet Union. By decision of the Government of

the U.S.S.R., textbooks for the Moldavian schools were printed in Moscow and in the Ukraine, and the schools were supplied with visual aids and all other facilities.

Elimination of illiteracy, a bad heritage of the past, was the first step in the cultural revolution which introduced the majority of the people to the world of culture and enabled them to become active builders of a new life.

Many elementary and secondary schools were built. They are attended by about half a million children, five times as many as in 1914. The progress of education has given the young Moldavians the possibility to enter special secondary and higher schools.

Moldavia now has eight higher educational establishments, including a university, with an enrolment of more than 17,000, as against 2,500 in 1940-41. And there are also thirty-two special secondary schools. Moldavia has for every 10,000 inhabitants two to three times as many college students as France or Western Germany, and six times as many as Turkey.

The time is past when only well-to-do parents could send their children to higher schools. All ordinary people have the opportunity for a college education in our country.

More than 68,000 specialists with a secondary schooling or higher education work in Moldavia. The Moldavian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has developed into a major centre of scientific research. Scientific research is conducted in the higher schools and in thirty-three scientific institutions, among them the institutes for research in horticulture, viticulture and wine-making, irrigation, farming, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, and the institute of the food industry.

Public health protection has improved enormously. Splendid hospitals have been built and equipped, as well as many polyclinics and dispensaries. The number of doctors for every 10,000 inhabitants of the Republic was four in 1940 and twelve in 1958, that is as many as in the United States, and more than in Britain, France and Japan.

Books and newspapers lay beyond the reach of the working people before the Revolution, when the people were under the rule of the Rumanian *boyars*.⁵ It is enough to mention that sixty-five books in editions totalling 38,000 copies were published in Bessarabia in 1913, while the books published in Moldavia in 1958 covered 842 titles, their editions adding up to 6,418,000 copies.

Not even one book was published in Bessarabia in the Moldavian language in 1913; the books published in Moldavian in the year 1958 alone cover 485 titles, their editions surpassing 4 million copies. Seventy-eight magazines and 170 newspapers are published today.

The people are now able to read in their native language classics written by Russian and other non-Moldavian authors. Many productions of modern Moldavian authors have been published in translation in the fraternal Soviet Republics and in foreign languages; they have found appreciative readers beyond the Soviet borders.

Libraries and clubs exist in all the villages today. Many villages have film projecting units, and every district centre has its House of Culture, cinema, library and book-store.

⁵ The feudal landlord rulers.—Ed.

In 1914, Bessarabia had no more than seventy-two libraries with 54,000 books. Today we have 1,600 libraries with more than 10 million volumes.

There are more than 1,600 clubs in the Republic. Our collective farms are building with their own resources splendid Palaces of Culture.

Amateur art activities are widely developed and many amateur groups are up to the level of professional companies. Amateur art groups have furnished the basis for people's theatres and orchestras. The actors and musicians are ordinary workers, collective farmers, office employees, school-teachers and housewives.

The time is not long past when the working people of Bessarabia did not know what a cinema was. Today the Republic has 800 film projecting units. The colour films *Lyana* and *Andriesh* were produced by the Moldova film studio of Kishinev in co-operation with the Moscow and Kiev film studios, and several colour films, both feature and documentary, have been produced independently. Best of the latest productions of this studio is the feature film *Ataman Kodr*.

An important event in the cultural life of the Republic was the completion of the fine building for the Pushkin Moldavian Musical Drama Theatre in Kishinev, in 1954. The Republic now has five theatres and a conservatoire of music.

Great headway has been made in the development of the rich and original musical heritage of the Moldavian people. The *Doina* folk-song and music troupe, the *Zhok* folk dance ensemble, the *Flayerash* orchestra of folk music, and symphony and variety orchestras have been established.

It is planned to build an opera and ballet theatre in Kishinev. The production of the first Moldavian opera, D. Gersfeld's *Grozovan*, which mirrors the struggle of the Moldavian people against the Turkish yoke, was a great occasion for national art. The libretto was written by the Moldavian poet Vladimir Russu.

For the production of this opera, the jury of the U.S.S.R. Festival of Drama and Music gave a second class award to the Moldavian theatre. Popular productions have been written also by other Moldavian composers. Fruitful work is done by Moldavian painters and sculptors.

Our Tomorrow

Improvements in living and cultural standards stimulate the development of physical culture and sports. The number of stadiums, sports grounds and other sports centres is growing not only in the cities but also in the villages. Specialists in physical culture and sports are trained by the Secondary Physical Culture School and the Physical Education Faculty of the Teachers' Training Institute.

The Government of the Moldavian S.S.R. spends more than 60 per cent of its annual budget on education and social and cultural undertakings.

The Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ushered in the period of comprehensive construction of communism, and endorsed the Seven-Year Plan for the development of the national economy of the U.S.S.R. in 1959-1965, which is an important milestone on the road to communism.

It was logical that this plan should have been submitted for the consideration and approval of the Party Congress.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union unites in its ranks the most advanced, the most conscientious people from the ranks of the workers, peasants and intellectuals, and it is the guiding force of Soviet society. The people's welfare is placed by the Party above all else, and that is why it enjoys the supreme confidence and full support of the people.

In the interests of all the working people, in the interests of communist construction in the U.S.S.R., the Communist Party prepares scientifically substantiated plans for the development of the national economy and indicates the best ways of capitalising, with utmost effect and speed, the advantages of our socialist system for the purpose of creating an abundance of material and cultural benefits.

N. S. Khrushchev's report to the Twenty-First Congress on the Seven-Year Plan and the resolution of the Congress contain a profound Marxist-Leninist exposition of the main tasks before the Soviet people in the economic and cultural spheres, and of the measures for advancing the people's welfare at the present stage.

Our tomorrow looms ahead as a concrete embodiment of the magnificent provisions of the seven-year plan. Many of these provisions have already become real facts.

Industrial Plans

Moldavia's industrial development in the seven-year period reflects the directives of the Twenty-First Congress of the C.P.S.U. concerning the need for developing in each Republic primarily those branches of economy for which the most favourable natural and economic conditions exist there, in order to make most effective use of the resources of each Republic and of the to ensure the proper harmony of the interests of each Republic and of the Soviet Union as a whole.

Investments in Moldavia's national economy under the seven-year plan will amount to 9,000 million roubles, and of these about 4,400 million roubles will go to industry.

I have already mentioned that food production is the main branch of our industry, and it will remain so in the current seven years. One hundred and sixty wineries, thirty-nine cognac distilleries and six canneries will be built before 1965, when the Republic's industry will process about 1 million tons of grapes, 380 per cent more than in 1958. The output of tinned goods is to go up in 1965 to 630 million tins.

It is planned to build along with state enterprises also collective-farm and inter-collective-farm factories for processing agricultural products.

Our collective farms are breeding livestock on a constantly growing scale. This makes it necessary to increase the number of meat packing plants and creameries. It is planned to put into operation in the current seven-year period several powerful meat packing plants, sixteen creameries and other dairy produce factories. Production of meat is due to increase by almost 100 per cent.

About 1,500 million roubles is allocated for the development of sugar production. It is planned to build five more big refineries which will supply 300,000 tons of sugar annually. By the end of the seven-year period the output of sugar will go up by 160 per cent.

Production of tobacco and of essential oils will also be stepped up. The seven-year plan provides for expanding the existing state-farm factories for the production of essential oils and constructing new ones.

One of the most important provisions of the seven-year plan calls for a further increase in the output of general consumer goods. Our Republic is due to raise production of cotton fabrics by 200 per cent, knitted goods by 100 per cent, leather footwear by 60 per cent, and synthetic leather goods by 400 per cent.

There will be a substantial increase in the output of garments, furniture, rugs and other items. To this end, steps have been taken to expand the existing enterprises and to build new ones.

The new enterprises will include a shoe factory capable of turning out 3 million pairs of shoes a year, a cotton spinning mill, and a factory for the production of synthetic karakul. Production is to be brought up to full capacity at the Bendery silk mills which will receive cocoons from our collective farms.

The new industries mentioned above (production of machinery, electrical equipment, chemicals and instruments) are also slated for a substantial expansion under the seven-year plan. All this should make it possible to meet the needs of the Republic's national economy and to reduce the supplies of equipment and machinery from other regions.

Electrification will be pushed ahead in the Republic with unprecedented speed. It is planned to build a big thermal power plant and to expand the power plants in Kishinev and Beltsy. Production of electric power is to be raised by 340 per cent and brought up to 2,000 million k.w.h.

This means that our little Moldavia will be producing more electric power than the whole of Russia did in 1913!

I believe that this fact alone is enough to give an idea of the colossal growth in Soviet economy since the Revolution, and especially in our Republic which has been in existence for only twenty years.

It is impossible to enumerate all the enterprises which will be added to industry in our Republic under the seven-year plan. I can merely add that special attention is being devoted to the production of goods from synthetic materials and to the development of the building industry in order to meet the requirements arising out of the growing volume of industrial and housing construction and of the expanding cultural and other services.

Much will be done to further modernise enterprises and promote comprehensive mechanisation and automation. This should enable us to raise productivity by about 60 per cent, while reducing the working day.

"An Orchard of the Soviet Union"

What will be the main trend of our agriculture? This has been indicated by N. S. Khrushchev. Speaking in Kishinev last year, he said: "... Moldavia should steer a course in one direction; she should become an orchard of the Soviet Union, to provide, so to say, delicacies for the table of the working people of the Soviet Union: grapes, wine, fruit and fruit-juices."

In viticulture and horticulture we have set ourselves the following tasks: to lay out in seven years 450,000 acres of new vineyards and 300,000 acres of new orchards and berry plantations on the collective and state farms. That, together with increases in the crop yields, should enable us to bring

the gross production of grapes in 1965 up to 1,400,000 tons and of fruit up to 450,000 tons, or three times the amount in 1958.

It should be mentioned that Moldavia no longer has any under-developed areas. The collective and state farms are therefore doing much to reclaim hillides and floodlands in order to cultivate new orchards and vineyards. This is our Moldavian virgin soil.

The grain crop will be increased substantially, mainly by expanding the planting of maize (its share in the plantation of cereals is due to rise to 60 per cent in 1965) and by boosting grain yields (to rise by 5½ to 6½ cwt. per acre).

Production of sugar beet is to be raised in 1965 to 2,500,000 tons, sunflower seed to 340,000 tons and vegetables to 550,000 tons. Production of tobacco, essential oil crops and other agricultural produce will also go up.

The gross production of meat and milk is to be raised by more than 100 per cent in 1965. There will also be a sharp increase in the herds of livestock.

Agriculture will be equipped with additional supplies of machinery, including 6,400 tractors. Electrification will be completed in the countryside. Extensive irrigation and melioration projects will be launched in the Dniester and Pruth basins.

In 1965 Moldavia will have about 1,750,000 acres given over to soft-fruits, orchards and vineyards. The total area of vineyards per head of the population will be greater in Moldavia than in such famous grape-producing countries as France, Italy and Spain.

Why we are Confident

The question may be asked: are there real possibilities for such a great increase in industrial and agricultural production? Yes, there are. More than that. We are determined to fulfil the seven-year plan provisions ahead of schedule.

Those who have been following developments in the Soviet Union more or less carefully cannot fail to see that our plans are well founded and that the inexhaustible possibilities of the socialist system allow us, as a rule, to surpass these plans.

As the real masters of production, the working people of Moldavia are interested in the most effective operation of the factories, collective farms and state farms. Hence the inexhaustible fountain of the people's initiative. Workers and collective farmers undertake to surpass production plans by taking stock of their new possibilities and additional reserves brought to light in the process of work, and achieve remarkable results.

The workers of the May First cannery of Tiraspol have resolved to achieve the level of production planned for 1965 two years earlier, and the workers of the Kishinev fruit cannery to fulfil the seven-year production programme in four years.

And these are not empty promises. Comprehensive mechanisation and automation are being carried into practice in the factories, and workers and engineers are proposing many valuable innovations.

Hundreds of production teams and shops are surpassing their targets in industry and construction.

We expect to fulfil the provisions of the seven-year plan for industry as a whole in six years.

Let me cite just one example to illustrate our possibilities in agriculture. The average grape yield (in 1958) being 38 cwt. per acre, sixty-five collective farms picked as much as 52 to 80 cwt. per acre, and seventy-five teams on the collective farms—between 64 and 200 cwt. And these collective farms and teams had no special advantages or privileges over the others.

We have many expert agriculturists in our Republic. Fifteen men and women collective farmers have been honoured with the title of Hero of Socialist Labour, and more than 4,000 others decorated with Government orders or medals. Their rich experience is being widely utilised. The technical equipment of agriculture is being improved and its efficiency is rising. Moldavia herself has been awarded the Order of Lenin for her successful development of agriculture.

All this strengthens our conviction that the provisions of the seven-year plan for agriculture will be achieved ahead of time.

Higher Living Standards

I have already cited many figures, although most people do not like to read articles and pamphlets loaded with figures.

But what could be done in this case? Plans are expressed mainly in figures, and these figures are sometimes more eloquent than words.

I shall therefore take the liberty of citing a few more figures, to give an idea of the improvements in the Moldavian people's living and cultural standards, which the seven-year plan will bring about.

The welfare of the working people of the Soviet Union is progressing and living conditions are improving for society as a whole and for every individual by the communist method, that is, at the expense of social funds.

These funds are used for building homes, schools, hospitals, cultural facilities, and for improving and extending the educational, medical, cultural and public services for the working people. And the provisions of the seven-year plan were drawn up with this in mind.

Real incomes of factory and office workers will rise by 40 per cent as the result of increases in wages and salaries, pensions and benefits, and further cuts in prices in the catering services. Real incomes of collective farmers will go up by at least 40 per cent, chiefly as the result of the growing social production of the collective farms.

State capital investments in housing and municipal construction in Moldavia will increase almost three times over; some 75,000 flats will be added in the cities and industrial towns, and 124,000 homes will be built in the countryside by the collective farmers and local intellectuals.

All this will enable us to end the housing shortage in the main by the end of the seven-year period.

The incomes of our collective farms will reach 7,000 million roubles at the end of the seven years, which will be more than twice that of 1958.

I have already mentioned Kopanka Village. Seven years hence the value of the indivisible fund of the local collective farm—that is, its basic means of production—will be about 60 million roubles.

Its members will build a fruit processing factory, a shop for the production of grape wines and fruit juices, an open-air theatre with 1,200 seats, a Palace of Culture which will have a hall seating 1,000, and a number of farm buildings. At the end of 1965 the collective farm will have 3,300 acres under orchards (1,250 acres more than at present) and 1,250 acres under vineyards.

Incidentally, the collective farm in this village is by no means the biggest and most advanced in our Republic.

State capital investments in the construction of cultural and utility services during the seven-year period will be increased by 110 per cent. School attendance will go up by 700,000, and the number of college-trained specialists will increase to 34,000 (5,800 more than in 1958).

Moldavia will build 190 schools, 129 kindergartens, 14 cinemas, 4 Houses of Culture, film studios (a film town, to be more exact), 43 hospitals, 73 child nurseries and many other cultural and utility services for the population. There will be a film projecting unit on every collective and state farm, a cinema with a wide screen in every city, and a panoramic cinema with 1,000 seats in Kishinev.

Collective farms are also planning to build cultural and utility services with their own means.

A great deal more could be told about the meaning of the seven-year plan for the Moldavian people. I believe, however, that the facts and figures already given here show well enough that the seven-year plan is a plan of peaceful construction for a great and noble purpose: to make life better for man, to quicken the advance of our country towards communism.

Initial Results

During 1959, the first year under the new plan, the rates of growth envisaged in the seven-year plan and the planned volume of industrial output were both exceeded. The Soviet Union has taken a long step towards the achievement of its main economic task, that of overtaking and surpassing the most advanced capitalist countries in *per capita* production.

The first year of the planned period was marked by major improvements in the living standards of the Soviet people.

Our Republic is no exception. In 1959 Moldavia made a worthy contribution towards the general effort of the Soviet people to carry out the seven-year plan ahead of schedule.

The plan of gross production in our Republic for 1959 was fulfilled to the extent of 103 per cent, and the volume of production surpassed the 1958 amount by 10 per cent. The production targets for many important items have been surpassed, in particular, for sugar, tinned goods, butter, confectionery, silks and leather shoes.

The share of industrial production in the general volume of output reached 60 per cent.

Capacities of the canneries have been expanded in one year so as to enable them to turn out an additional 75 million tins. This has been accomplished by modernising some of the existing canneries, providing new equipment, and by further mechanisation and the use of conveyors. Capacities have also been increased in wine-making and sugar refining.

Capital investments in the national economy of the Republic in the last

two years reached 3,000 million roubles. Thirty industrial enterprises, many apartment houses, schools, clubs, libraries and Houses of Culture have been built in this period.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather in 1959, when many districts were stricken by drought, we raised an average of almost 16 cwt. of grain and 8 tons of sugar beet per acre. The grain crop amounted to 2,200,000 tons, the average annual crop harvested in the last five years being 1,800,000 tons.

During the year we laid out new orchards and vineyards on an area of 81,750 acres. The herds of dairy cattle have grown by 20 per cent, the number of pigs by almost 30 per cent and of poultry by 50 per cent.

I should like to emphasise that the average milk yield per cow was 2½ tons, approximately as much as the planned target for the end of the seven-year period. Our sales of milk to the state surpassed the planned sales by about 75,000 tons.

And yet, when we were summing up the results of the year in agriculture, we found that we could have done still better: many possibilities were overlooked or not taken full advantage of.

Consequently, we still have possibilities for faster progress.

At least 112,000 acres of vineyards and orchards will be laid out in the Republic in 1960; this will include 62,000 acres on hillsides. The collective and state farms count on selling at least 365,000 tons of grapes and 92,000 tons of fruit to the state.

The sugar beet yield will be raised to 9 tons per acre and the yield of vegetables to 4 tons.

We are planning to complete this year the fattening of more than a million pigs, three times more than in 1959, and to sell to the state 360,000 tons of milk, the target set for the end of the seven-year plan.

As for improvements in people's lives, it is gratifying to know in the first place that some 13,000 new flats built at state expense were made available for tenancy in the last two years. Furthermore, with the aid of state loans a further 11,000 have been built by townsmen, and more than 50,000 homes have been built by villagers with the aid of their collective farms. This scale of construction will make it possible to solve the housing problem in the next few years.

Retail sales of meat, sausage and dairy products have been doubled in the last two years.

There has been a steadily growing demand (in the villages especially) for refrigerators, TV and radio sets, motorcycles and other durable goods. Many new stores, dining halls and cafés have been opened.

Steps are being taken to supply greater amounts of better quality goods and to improve the services for the population.

* * *

Naturally, in this short booklet I could review only very briefly the results of the first year of the seven-year plan. I should like to emphasise once again that the Moldavian people have no doubt that all the planned targets will be reached.

This conviction is growing also because the Communist Party and the Government of the Soviet Union are winning constantly greater victories

in the struggle for peace, for easing international tension, for peaceful co-existence and co-operation among all states.

Only if there is peace can we carry out our plans for building communism. Speaking in the Indonesian Parliament on February 26th, 1960, the head of the Soviet Government, N. S. Khrushchov, said:

"When the Soviet state was born of the Great October Socialist Revolution, its first words were words of peace. In surveying the history of the Soviet state, we proudly note that throughout its existence it has been tirelessly fighting for peace and friendship between the peoples, and against war. Inscribed on our banners there have always been the words of the great Lenin: 'Peace to the peoples!'"

The successful completion of the seven-year plan of the U.S.S.R. will be a most valuable contribution to the cause of general peace.

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